Numb. 155.

MERCATOR:

OR,

Commerce Retrieved,

From Tuesday, May 18. to Thursday, May 20. 1714.

THE beſt thing that the Oppoſers of the Commerce with France have yet ſaid for all the Frauds and Cheats they have put upon the World is this; what ſignifies it to the Caſe, whether the Cuſtom-houſe Books are perfect or no, we all know that our Trade to France is a Loſs to England.

This begging the Queſtion, is indeed the way they take to make out what they aſſert, and what they want in Fact they ſupply with Affirmation. But as to the Damage they do the *Mercator* muſt ſpeak by it ſelf.

It is true, that they are able to do but little Damage in whatever they ſay, but we are no Debtors to their good Will, but to their want of Capacity for that Advantage. They have wanted no Endeavours, no Forgery or Falſity has been omitted that could have made their Cauſe appear plauſible; no Slanders, no Calumny, no ſcurilous offenſive Language upon, and to the Perſons who they think have oppoſed them, whether they have done it or no: That all this Malice is impotent and unable to ſerve them, or aſſiſt them in the Deſigns they are carrying on, is owing to the Subſtance and Weight of the Things which they Oppoſe, which they cannot reſiſt, and that altho' at firſt by the Aſſiſtance of infinite Clamour they did run down all that the Power of reaſoning could oppoſe, and deceiv'd many by their audacious way of aſſerting Things be they Right or be they Wrong: Yet when People recover'd themſelves, and came to act the cool Part, they eaſily ſee thro' the Fraud.

Who would have thought when they had read the printed Schemes which were given abroad by theſe Britiſh Merchants, and which were with ſuch unexampled Impudence and Bullying Language put upon the People of Britain; Who would have thought but that according to their Titles they contain'd a full Account of the Trade, and that there was no Exports of Goods other than thoſe which they gave an Account of? Who could have imagined but that thoſe Accounts had been full and right, and that they had contain'd the full Sum of all the Engliſh Woollen-Manufactures that were Exported to France? Would any one have thought that theſe Accounts were Cheats and Shams, made up of but one part of the Story, and that the other part which were convey'd by ſecret and unobſerv'd Channels was not included, nor any mention made of them? It muſt be confeſſed the Boldneſs was ſuch, that few People could imagine that did not know the Caſe that ſuch a daring Countenance could be ſet upon a Falſity.

And now they are detected, now their Advocates ſay, what does it ſignify? Why truly it ſignifies not much, that muſt be confeſſed, it only ſignifies that theſe Men are what no wiſe or good Man can think of, being without Horror: It only ſignifies that nothing they have ſaid is to be valued or can be believ'd: It only ſignifies that the Trade to France, which by this unſufferable Lying has been repreſented as a loſing Trade to England by a Million a Year, has all this while been in reality an advantageous Trade to us, and may by the preſent Treaty of Commerce be made a much more an Advantage to us than ever it has yet been.

It ſignifies that all the Pretences made of the French uſing but few of our Manufactures, being ſo far from wanting Goods of us, that they were able to ſupply all the Markets of the World and underſel us, and not only ſo, but that they would be able to ſend Goods to us, and out-do or underſel us in Woollen-Manufactures at our own Door, and a thouſand ſuch extravagant Things which theſe Scheme-making People thruſt out, and obtruded upon the World, were horrid Cheats and Frauds, forged in their own Brain, and coin'd to deceive the People for the Propagation of Party-Clamour, and for carrying on a Mutiny againſt the Government.

They have propagated this Wickedneſs by a thouſand Devices and Crafts with the ſame Honeſty; For this they carry'd Wooll in their Hats at the late Election for Members, and then the very ſame Men aſſiſted to carry our Wooll into France, and have been taken in the Fact. They cried out loud of ruining our Manufactures by a Bill for Commerce, and at the ſame time carry on a clandeſtine Trade with France that would ruin not our Manufactures only, but our whole Commerce. They oppoſe our ſending our Manufactures to France, and then ſend our Wooll thither unmanufactur'd; upbraid us with the French being able to make the Woollen-Manufactures as well as we can,

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and then treacherouſly ſend them our Wooll to do it with.

At the ſame time that the French Manufacturers are in dread of our Bill of Commerce, as what will effectually deſtroy the very Name of Manufacturing among them; at the ſame time they rail at the ſame Bill as ruinous and deſtructive to ours alſo, as if the ſame thing could equally deſtroy both, and as if their Goods could ruin ours, and ours ruin theirs at the ſame time.

What Stone have they left unturn'd? What Fraud unpractiſed to deceive the poor People, and to perſuade them to make a popular Clamour, and to make the Nation uneaſy about the French Trade.

What Work have they made with the word French? How have they made the very Word a teſt of Goodneſs or Badneſs of the Trade? As if to Trade with France had ſomething in it of a deſire to propagate the Intereſt of France: As if Merchandizing was concern'd in Politicks, and there were Factions in Trade as there are in Governments: As if we were to tie up our Commerce as we do our Charity, and not Trade with thoſe Nations we did not love.

The buſineſs of Trade is to get Money, to extend our Goods, conſume our Produce, encreaſe Employment to our Poor, and enlarge the conſumption of our Manufactures. We know no Parties in Commerce, no Alliances, no Enemies; they are our Friends we can Trade with to Advantage, tho' otherwiſe hating us and hated by us; no Differences of State-Matters are concerned here; we know no *Whig or TORY* in Trade: There is no *Popery* in Commerce; it matters not to us what God they worſhip, what Religion they own, with whom we Trade; our Commerce worſhips but one Idol, *viz.* GAIN; we Trade with Mahometans in Turkey, Pagans in India, Savages in Africa, Papiſts in Spain, Italy and France, and nearer home with Jews, Chriſtians and Hollanders.

But we are now come to engage in new Methods of Commerce, and have Laws of Trade ſuggeſted to us which were never heard of before: We are told, the French are for the *Pretender*, and therefore it is *Jacobitiſm* to ſend our Manufactures to them; and whoever is for the Trade to France, is an Enemy to the Houſe of *Hanover*.

Yet we know at the ſame time, the Dutch Trade with France openly, and will do ſo, and have a Tariff for that purpoſe, tho' they call themſelves the Guarantees of the *Hanover* Succeſſion. What wretched Principles are we taught in this particular? *viz.* That it is better the *Dutch* ſhould Trade with France than that we ſhould do it; nay, ſay others, altho' they carry our Goods to France, it is better they ſhould carry them there than that we ſhould do it; for, as was ſaid of Dunkirk, we are not fit to be truſted with it. This is the politick Faith of theſe Men; and no wonder ſuch Trumpery wants a foundation of Fraud to ſupport and uphold it. How is it poſſible it ſhould ſtand without it? For nothing but Forgery can ſupport Forgery, and Cheat propagate Cheat, as Brother upholds Brother.

Theſe are the Methods of theſe Men; and yet, which is the moſt unaccountable, all this founded upon Falſhood, founded upon falſe Repreſentations of Fact, and ſupported by pretended Accounts, which cannot, as appears upon Examination, be perfect, and from which no true Accounts can be deduced.

With the Honeſty of theſe Methods, ſinks at once all the ſubſequent Productions of the Party; If their Accounts are imperfect then their Schemes are falſe? The Ballances pretended to be drawn from them all of no uſe, except to expoſe their Authors.

If their Ballances they have drawn are falſe, what have they Bullied the Nation about all this while? What have they Hectored the *Mercator* about? To what end all their want of Manners and want of Temper; ſeeing they knew at the ſame time, that they wanted Truth.

Let them produce one Voucher, if they are able, to prove the Accounts of the Cuſtom-houſe were full Accounts? That they were Accounts of all the Cuſtom-houſe had, the *Mercator* has granted them, except where he has excepted. But where is their Voucher to prove that thoſe Accounts from the Cuſtom-houſe were full Accounts of all the Goods known to be Exported to France? The Commiſſioners of the Cuſtoms will not call them ſo, or pretend that they are ſo; it is not required of them; they are Accounts of all the Goods Entred to France. But there is a great difference between Goods Entred and Goods Shipp'd, as ſhall be farther explained in its proper time.

It is high time this Cheat was expoſed, they have triumph'd in Villany long enough; nor can the *Mercator* dwell too long upon it: It is of Importance to the whole Nation, that they ſhould ſee how they have been Cheated and Abuſed. The Time is at hand, we doubt not, when, notwithſtanding all theſe Amuſements, this advantagious Commerce ſhall be ſaved to the Nation, and thoſe that would throw it away be expoſed as they deſerve.

From the Cuſtom-Houſe.

Exported to France *in Three Days*, May 12, 13, 14.

48	Stuffs
25 dozen	Hats
24	Calve skins
1577	Engliſh Fans
30	Engliſh Tea Tables
410 Gallons	Canary
1500	Glaſs-Bottles
9000	Horn-Plates
* 768	Callicoes
10 Ton 3 C.	Copperas
3 Ton 11 C.	Block-Tin
7 Ton 1 C.	Kids-Hair
11 Fodder 14 C.	Lead
14 Ton	Logwood
1 Ton 18 C.	Sandiver
1 Ton	Steel
1 C.	Antimony
200 quarter	Barley
151554 lb.	Virginia Tobacco

LONDON: Printed for BENJ. TOOKE, at the *Temple-Gate*; and JOHN BARBER, on *Lambeth-Hill*. (Price 3 Half-pence.)